

108. (Unamended From Previous Version) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 102, wherein the process steps are computer-executable in a windowing environment.

REMARKS

Claims 74 to 75, 77 to 82, 84 to 89, 91 to 96, 98 to 103 and 104 to 108 are in the application. Claims 76, 83, 90, 97 and 104 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to reintroduce subject matter presented therein. Claims 74, 75, 77, 78, 81, 82, 84, 85, 88, 89, 91, 92, 95, 96, 98, 99, 102, 103, 105 and 106 have been amended. Claims 74, 81, 88, 95 and 102 are the independent claims herein. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 77, 84, 91, 98 and 105 are rejected based on 35 U.S.C. § 112 as not providing sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the second interface." Applicants have amended Claims 77, 84, 91, 98 and 105 to provide proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the §112 rejection.

By the Office Action, Claims 74 to 108 are rejected based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the HP ScanJet 5P Scanner User's Guide (i.e., "HP User's Guide", Hewlett-Packard Co., Publication No. C5112-90000, First Edition 9/1996). The rejection is respectfully traversed since the language of the rejected claim specified different appearances for a single control, which is clearly not shown in the HP Users's Guide. To emphasize this distinction, the claims have been amended to refer to a "same control." A more detailed traversal is set out as follows.

The present invention relates to an improved user interface for allowing control by a user that takes into account different user perspectives. For example, in using an image acquisition device, a novice has a different understanding of the concept of tone than that of an expert. For a novice, "tone" might be understood as no more than simple brightness/contrast control, whereas an expert might understand "tone" to refer to gamma or to the input/output

characteristics of an editable tone curve. Thus, from the perspective of a novice, the user interface should provide for tone control with a simple brightness/contrast adjustment, whereas from the perspective of an expert, the user interface should provide for tone control with a fully editable tone curve. Generalizing this concept, it is advantageous for a user interface to provide plural different interfaces for a single control.

For example, a user interface according to the invention to control an image acquisition device may include a property page used for "Tone" control. The "Tone" property page includes a button region with plural radio buttons and a control region whose appearance is changed so as to provide different interfaces for tone control. The button region includes buttons for the following types of tone control: automatic, brightness/contrast, gamma, histogram, and editable curve. The appearance of the control region of the "Tone" property page is changed in response to user manipulation of these buttons. For example, when the gamma tone control button is selected, the appearance of the control region is changed so as to display gamma tone control, such as control by a slide and a text box for selecting a gamma value and a transfer curve representing the effect of the gamma value on tone. Alternatively, when the editable curve tone control button is selected, an appearance of the control region is changed so as to display editable curve tone control, such as control by a text box for selecting special tone curves and a fully editable tone curve. Thus, the different appearances provide different interfaces for the control provided by the property page, in this case tone control.

More particularly, Claim 74 concerns a user interface comprising a property page providing an interface, and at least first and second selection elements displayed in the property page, each of the at least first and second selection elements corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearance of the interface for the control provided by the property page, wherein a first appearance of the interface is provided, in the property page in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the interface is provided in the property page in response to selection of the second selection element.

The art of record is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of independent Claim 74. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest a property page providing an interface and at least first and second selection elements displayed in the property page, each of the at least first and second selection elements corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearance of the interface for the control provided by the property page, wherein a first appearance of the interface is provided, in the property page, in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the interface is provided in the property page in response to selection of the second selection element.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5 on pages 4 and 5, states that Fig. 2-26 of the HP User's Guide is a property page and the buttons on the left side of Fig. 2-26 are selection elements which correspond to a different interface. The Office Action further states that the "Size Settings" and "Picture Adjustments" are selection elements which represent different interfaces, and Fig. 2-28, which the Examiner believes to be part of Fig. 2-26, is one of these interfaces.

The HP User's Guide is not seen to teach or suggest the features of Claim 74. More particularly, as apparently understood by the Examiner, the buttons on the left side of Fig. 2-26 correspond to different controls. That is, one button corresponds to "Size Settings" while another button corresponds to "Picture Adjustments".

In contrast, Claim 74 includes at least first and second selection elements that correspond to the same control. For example, as discussed above, the selection elements may correspond to a "Tone" control. Further, the HP Scanner User's Guide is not seen to teach or suggest the first and second selection elements, which correspond to the same control, representing a different appearance of the interface for the control provided by the property page, wherein a first appearance of the interface is provided, in the property page in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the interface is provided in the property page in response to selection of the second selection element.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 74 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 81, 88, 95 and 102 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

The remaining claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

74. (Three Times Amended) A user interface comprising:

a property page providing an interface [for a control], and at least first and second selection elements displayed in the property page, each of the at least first and second selection elements corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearance of the interface for the control provided by the property page; and

wherein a first appearance of the interface is provided, in the property page, in response to selection of the first selection element, and a second appearance of the interface is provided in the property page in response to selection of the second selection element.

75. (Amended) A user interface according to Claim 74, wherein said property page has a control region, which comprises at least one control element [and wherein when said plural elements are shown, said plural elements are shown in said control region].

76. (Cancelled).

77. (Amended) A user interface according to Claim 74, wherein said first and second selection elements are [interface and said second interface have at least

one common element, said common element] shown both when the first appearance [interface] is provided and when the second appearance [interface] is provided.

78. (Amended) A user interface according to Claim 75[4], wherein said control element comprises [plural elements include] at least one element selected from the group of list boxes, text boxes, check boxes, slides, buttons, and editable curves.

81. (Three Times Amended) A method for providing a user interface comprising the steps of:
displaying a property page providing an interface [for a control], and
displaying in the property page at least first and second selection elements each corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearance of the interface for the control provided in the property page;

providing, in the property page in response to selection of a first selection element, a first appearance of the interface, and providing a second appearance of the interface in response to selection of the second selection element.

82. (Amended) A method for providing a user interface according to Claim 81, wherein said property page has a control region, which comprises at least one control element [and wherein when said plural elements are shown, said plural elements are shown in said control region].

83. (Cancelled).

84. (Amended) A method for providing a user interface according to Claim 81, wherein said first and second selection elements are [interface and said second interface have at least one common element, said common element] shown both when the first appearance [interface] is provided and when the second appearance [interface] is provided.

85. (Amended) A method for providing a user interface according to Claim 82[1], wherein said control element comprises [plural elements include] at least one element selected from the group of list boxes, text boxes, check boxes, slides, buttons, and editable curves.

88. (Three Times Amended) An apparatus for providing a user interface, comprising:
a memory for storing executable process steps including executable process steps for a user interface;
input means for inputting data;
output means for outputting data; and
a processor for executing the process steps stored in said memory so as (1)
to display a property page providing an interface [for a control], and to display in the

property page at least first and second selection elements each corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearances of the interface of the property page; and (2) to provide, in the property page in response to selection of a selection element, a first appearance of the interface corresponding to the first selection element, and to provide, in the property page, a second appearance of the interface in response to selection of the second selection.

89. (Amended) An apparatus for providing a user interface according to Claim 88, wherein said property page has a control region, which comprises at least one control element [and wherein when said plural elements are shown, said plural elements are shown in said control region].

90. (Cancelled).

91. (Amended) An apparatus for providing a user interface according to Claim 88, wherein said first and second selection elements are [interface and said second interface have at least one common element, said common element] shown both when the first appearance [interface] is provided and when the second appearance [interface] is provided.

92. (Amended) An apparatus for providing a user interface according to Claim 89[8], wherein said control element comprises [plural elements include] at least one element selected from the group of list boxes, text boxes, check boxes, slides, buttons, and editable curves.

95. (Three Times Amended) Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer-readable medium, the process steps for use on a computer system to provide a user interface, the process steps comprising:

code to display a property page providing an interface [for a control], containing plural elements, each of the plural elements being either shown or hidden, and to display in the property page at least first and second selection elements each corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearances of the interface displayable in the property page; and

code to provide, in the property page in response to selection of the first selection element, a first appearance of the interface, and to provide, in the property page, a second appearance of the interface in response to selection of the second selection element.

96. (Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 95, wherein said property page has a control region, which comprises at least one control element [and wherein when said plural elements are shown, said plural elements are shown in said control region].

97. (Cancelled).

98. (Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 95, wherein said first and second selection elements are [interface and said second interface have at least one common element, said common element] shown both when the first appearance [interface] is provided and when the second appearance [interface] is provided.

99. (Amended) Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 96[5], wherein said control element comprises [plural elements include] at least one element selected from the group of list boxes, text boxes, check boxes, slides, buttons, and editable curves.

102. (Three Times Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores computer-executable process steps for use on a computer system to provide a user interface, the process steps comprising:

a displaying step to display a property page providing an interface [for a control], and to display in the property page at least first and second selection elements each corresponding to a same control and representing a different appearances of the interface displayable in the property page;

a providing step to provide, in the property page in response to selection of the first selection element, a first appearance of the interface corresponding to the first

selection element, and to provide, in the property page, a second appearance of the interface in response to selection of the second selection.

103. (Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 102, wherein said property page has a control region, which comprises at least one control element [and wherein when said plural elements are shown, said plural elements are shown in said control region].

104. (Cancelled).

105. (Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 102, wherein said first and second selection elements are [interface and said second interface have at least one common element, said common element] shown both when the first appearance [interface] is provided and when the second appearance [interface] is provided.

106. (Amended) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 103[2], wherein said control element comprises [plural elements include] at least one element selected from the group of list boxes, text boxes, check boxes, slides, buttons, and editable curves.

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